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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Letter dated 14 March 1996 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to draw your attention to a letter dated 12 March 1996 from the Secretary-General addressed to me, which was circulated in document A/50/891.

In his letter, the Secretary-General expresses deep concern about General Assembly draft resolutions A/50/L.67 and L.68, relating to the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH) and to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), respectively. The draft resolutions would request the Secretary-General to renew the mandates of the two missions "within existing resources".

The current budgetary situation described by the Secretary-General does not give him the flexibility to implement additional mandates within existing resources. Were the General Assembly to decide the continuation of the mandates of MICIVIH and MINUGUA without requisite financial resources, its decisions would stand in danger of not being implemented.

The Secretary-General is alerting Member States to the implications of requesting him to implement extended mandates for these missions, or for other such missions which may be established during the biennium 1996-1997, without at the same time providing adequate funding.

I should like to request that the letter of the Secretary-General be brought to the attention of the Fifth Committee in its consideration of the

statements submitted by the Secretary-General of the programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/50/L.67 and L.68 (A/C.5/50/52 and 53).

(Signed) Diogo FREITAS DO AMARAL
President of the General Assembly